

S. 2374. A bill to amend the Defense Base Act to require death benefits to be paid to a deceased employee's designated beneficiary or next of kin in the case of death resulting from a war-risk hazard or act of terrorism occurring on or after September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in September 2012, an attack on the United States facilities in Benghazi, Libya, resulted in the death of Glen Anthony Doherty, a former Navy SEAL who grew up in Winchester, MA, and three others.

Mr. Doherty was killed while defending the classified annex near the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi against a terrorist attack that also caused the deaths of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, former Navy SEAL and C.I.A. contractor Tyrone Woods, and U.S. State Department officer Sean Smith.

Mr. Doherty was unmarried and had no dependents. It is my understanding that he activated his mandatory Defense Base Act insurance policy before deploying to Libya in 2012 believing this policy would pay benefits to his estate or next of kin in the event of his death.

After his death and despite the Doherty family's extensive efforts, they have been unable to receive financial compensation from the Central Intelligence Agency or from private insurance providers. This issue has compounded the pain the family has endured from the loss of a beloved son and brother.

No family in the CIA community should be left uncompensated if a family member falls in the line of duty.

That is why I am today introducing the Glen Anthony Doherty Overseas Security Personnel Fairness Act, which was first introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Steven Lynch. This legislation will remove a significant omission in federal law that currently prohibits the families of overseas contractors who are killed in the line of duty from receiving full death benefits if the deceased employee is unmarried with no children or other dependents. The bill would amend the Defense Base Act of 1941 to ensure that full death benefits are extended to the families or designated beneficiaries of Federal contractors who have died in service to our country as a result of a war-risk hazard or an act of terrorism.

Specifically, it would allow the payment of death benefits otherwise due a widow, widower, or surviving child of an individual employed at a military, air, or naval base outside of the United States who dies as a result of a war-risk hazard or act of terrorism occurring on or after September 11, 2001, when there is no person eligible for a death benefit under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

The bill requires payment in such a case to a beneficiary designated by the

deceased or the next of kin or the estate of the deceased under applicable state law if there is no designated beneficiary. The bill requires benefits to be paid from the Employees' Compensation Fund.

More than merely a technical or administrative concern, this issue goes to the heart of the United States government's relationship with the families of those who are killed defending our country. I ask all Senators to support this important legislation for the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 331—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 12, 2015, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 331

Whereas, 24 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 24 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 2,416,000 wreaths have been sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials, in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to "Remember, Honor, Teach", is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans cemeteries; and
- (3) other locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

- (1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;
- (2) honoring those who serve; and
- (3) reminding the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve freedoms in the United States;

Whereas, in 2014, approximately 716,000 remembrance wreaths were sent to more than 1,000 locations across the United States and overseas, an increase of more than 100 locations compared to the previous year;

Whereas, in December 2015, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay remembrance wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States continues to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related serv-

ices to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to over 1,000 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 13, 2014, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 12, 2015, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing remembrance wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 2015, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2921. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CASEY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 207, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2921. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CASEY) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 207, recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance; as follows:

Strike the fifteenth whereas clause, and insert the following:

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison as of December 1, 2014, were China, Eritrea, Iran, Ethiopia, and Vietnam;

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 3 p.m., in room SR—

253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Data or Dogma? Promoting Open Inquiry in the Debate over the Magnitude of Human Impact on Earth’s Climate.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Millennium Challenge Corporation: Lessons Learned after a Decade and Outlook for the Future.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Opioid Abuse in America: Facing the Epidemic and Examining Solutions.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Ensuring Competition Remains on Tap: The AB InBev/SABMiller merger and the State of Competition in the Beer Industry.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sarah Rosenberg, a fellow with the Senate HELP Committee, and Lauren Burdette, a fellow in Senator CASEY’s office, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brian Alexander, a fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my education fellow, Cristina Veresan, be given floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 306, S. 1719.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1719) to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1719

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act of 2015” or the “RAISE Family Caregivers Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the Family Caregiving Advisory Council convened under section 4.

(2) **FAMILY CAREGIVER.**—The term “family caregiver” means an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability, or functional limitation.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(4) **STRATEGY.**—The term “Strategy” means the National Family Caregiving Strategy established, maintained, and updated under section 3.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop, maintain, and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The Strategy shall identify specific actions that Federal, State, and local governments, communities, health care, long-term services and supports and other providers,

employers, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers in a manner that reflects their diverse needs, including with respect to the following:

(1) Promoting greater adoption of person- and family-centered care in all health and long-term services and supports settings, with the person receiving services and supports and the family caregiver (as appropriate) at the center of care teams.

(2) Assessment and service planning (including care transitions and coordination) involving family caregivers and care recipients.

(3) Training and other supports.

(4) Information, education, referral, and care coordination, including hospice, palliative care, and advance planning services.

(5) Respite options.

(6) Financial security.

(7) Workplace policies and supports that allow family caregivers to remain in the workforce.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**—The Secretary, in carrying out this section, shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Collecting and making publicly available information, including evidence-based or promising practices and innovative models (both domestically and internationally) regarding the provision of care by family caregivers or support for family caregivers.

(2) Coordinating Federal Government programs and activities to recognize and support family caregivers while ensuring maximum effectiveness and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

(3) Providing technical assistance, such as best practices and information sharing, to State or local efforts, as appropriate, to support family caregivers.

(4) Addressing disparities in recognizing and supporting family caregivers and meeting the needs of the diverse family caregiving population.

(5) Assessing all Federal programs regarding family caregivers, including with respect to funding levels.

(d) **INITIAL STRATEGY; UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, develop, publish, and submit to Congress the initial Strategy incorporating the items addressed in the Advisory Council’s report in section 4(d)(2) and other priority actions for recognizing and supporting family caregivers; and

(2) not less than every 2 years, update, republish, and submit to Congress the Strategy, taking into account the most recent annual report submitted under section 4(d)(1)—

(A) to reflect new developments, challenges, opportunities, and solutions; and

(B) to assess progress in implementation of the Strategy and, based on the results of such assessment, recommend priority actions for such implementation.

(e) **PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.**—The Secretary shall establish a process for public input to inform the development of, and updates to, the Strategy, including a process for the public to submit recommendations to the Advisory Council and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed Strategy.

(f) **NO PREEMPTION.**—Nothing in this Act preempts any authority of a State or local government to recognize or support family caregivers.

SEC. 4. FAMILY CAREGIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **CONVENING.**—The Secretary shall convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council to provide advice to the Secretary on recognizing and supporting family caregivers.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The members of the Advisory Council shall consist of—

(A) the appointed members under paragraph (2); and

(B) the Federal members under paragraph (3).

(2) **APPOINTED MEMBERS.**—In addition to the Federal members under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint not more than 15 members